Labor - 1921

Foreign

Europe

18 PITTSBURGH NEGROES THROWN OUT OF EMPLOYMENT; PLACES FILLED BY NEWLY ARRIVED ITALIANS

Negro World 1/15/21

Another Link in the Long Chain of Visible Evidence That the Negro Is Badly in Need of an Economic Foundation.

Dec. 31, 1920.

Dear Editor, Negro World:

As a loyal scout of the U. N. I. A., I feel disposed to inform you of the sad tidings that eighteen Pittsburgh Negroes have been thrown out of employment, and their places filled in by newly arrived foreign Italians. They were all employed by the Pittsburgh & West Virginia R. R. as laborers, with their camp just a stone throw from where the writer lives. I know many of these Negroes personally, and have visited their camp on more than one occasion in my efforts to enlist their services in the progressive army of the U. N. I. A. and take out shares in one or the other enterprises connected with the great movement, which, of course, were of no avail. They were all making good wages, but were too busy throwing it to the dogs to think it worth while to invest a few dollars in some Negro enterprise in which to give them and their children congenial employment some day.

There is a humorous side to everything, and the humorous side to this one particular case is the fact that while trying to induce these thoughtless fellows to take some interest in the upbuilding of their race, they would only laugh in my face and finally bawl out: "T' hell with the U. N. I. A."

So we see now, once again, where the tables have been turned. "He who laughs last, laughs best." How true! In this case, as in numerous others, the white man had replied for me partly in these Negroes' own language—words for words: "Get out from here! T' hell with you! Away with ye! I'll have no more of you!" And now the results? They one and all alike have been ousted from their jobs, and their places filled in, no doubt, by many of those foreigners whom they so gloriously fought for in Europe during the late war.

As I write this, I cast my eyes out of my window and see the shambling file of Italians marching up the tracks with the packs upon their backs towards the camp, jabbering about the discharged "niggers" in broken English; the Negroes themselves are evacuating and making it towards the city, grumbling in turn, of course, about "race prejudice."

Sir, I simply mention this incident as a precaution to these "Would-like-to-be-white-folks-Negroes" that it is about high time that they are awakening to their sense of duty by their race, and the quicker they "Catch the Garvey's Vision" the quicker the race will possess an economic foundation of their own, and, consequently, we will no longer be depending industrial beggars of the white man.

Fraternally yours,
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